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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 17 1905

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or that have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town, or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,
Geographer.

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

"Brisco"
Yale Caribou B.C.
Kootenay

Department of the Interior

Office of Geographical Names

See Rocky Mt. map

Brisco is a district - about 50 miles
on the Columbia River - from
Golden - a Landing & Postal district
& containing only about 30 inhabitants -
men women & children. The first
settlement, Mr Henry Atcheson, located here
in 1891 - also W. G. Bott from Ottawa -
a Post office was opened here in 1895 -
with DeCampbell (the writer) as Postmaster
The Office then was named Columbia
Valley, which which was considered
sweeping & caused much confusion
in 1898. June 30th I resigned & Mrs Cameron
was appointed - about a year or so afterward
she left this district & George Mitchell ran
the office, then & H Mitchell his uncle
about 1889. the name was changed to Brisco
and fall of 1902. the Office, was again
established at my place where it still
remains. The People do considerable
work for me. for attending to the office
as Sir W. Mulock cut down the small Post
offices. from 50 to 100 percent. The amount would
not pay any one. so I run it now on alone conditions
as to the name. a spur of the Rocky mountains
running from the Kootenay River. on the south
to Hicking horse. on the north. lying about north
& south & about 100 miles in length. I was
told when I came here. this range was named
Briscombe. mountains after Lord Briscombe whom
I presume. had once traversed the Country

The name Brisco, was suggested by Mr
Henry Atchison, & sent in by A. H. Mitchell
& supposed to be the name of range of mountains
mentioned - according to English sounds. I
think the name should spell Briscoe
thus making a whole mouthfull.

There are no other particular features
as the Postal district is about 8
miles long. I presume you sent
similar circulars to Galena, or the north
& Sinclair on the south. To describe
anything outside of the district might
mean confusion.

yours respectfully

D. Campbell

P. Master of Briscoe
N. E. Hartney 1872